

A Presumable *Asplenium* Hybrid from Kentucky

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In June 1961 when I was scouting the Kentucky countryside in preparation for the Society's annual fern foray, I found a sterile hybrid *Asplenium* in a small hole on a moist sandstone cliff growing in a clump with four other *Asplenium* species. The mass of roots, about one centimeter in diameter, was so matted that the fronds seemed to have a single source. The clump was sent to Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, who realized that some of the fronds were an apparent new hybrid and identified the others as *A. pinnatifidum*, *A. montanum*, *A. trudellii*, and *A. trichomanes*. The clump was predominantly *A. trudellii*. Dr. Wherry suggested that Dr. Warren H. Wagner, Jr. see the new hybrid. Dr. Wagner wrote that the plant might be "derived from the gametes of *Asplenium*  $\times$  *trudellii* ( $3\times$  'apogamous') and *A. pinnatifidum* ( $2\times$  sexual) and therefore, a pentaploid of the constitution  $MMR \times MR = MMMRR$ ." This, of course, has not been proved in the laboratory. I propose the following formula for this plant:

ASPLENIUM *pinnatifidum*  $\times$  *trudellii*, hybr. nov. Plate 16

Fronds clustered, 16–21 cm long; stipes brownish-black at base; rhachises green; blades slightly longer than the stipes, lanceolate, somewhat caudate, pinnate at base; basal pinnae decidedly slender-stalked; 4 or 5 suprabasal pinnae adnate at base, ascending; blades merely pinnatifid distally, caudate-serrate at apex; pinnae mostly opposite, deltoid-oblong to acuminate, variously lobed, crenate to serrate; sori near the midrib; spores aborted.

The specimen data are: Cumberland Falls State Park, Kentucky, on a shaded sandstone cliff, June 12, 1961, *Thomas N. McCoy* (US).

To distinguish this hybrid from either of its putative parents is somewhat of a problem. Some characteristics are common to both parents and the hybrid: the stipes are brownish-black at the base, but the remainder of the stipe and rhachis is green, and the fronds are lanceolate. But pinna shape and attachment are different in the three. The pinnae of *A. trudellii* are ovate and long-stalked. In *A. pinnatifidum* the pinnae are rounded and adnate or broadly





ASPENIUM PINNATIFIDUM X TRUDELLII



stalked. In *A. pinnatifidum*  $\times$  *trudellii* the pinnae are definitely oblong and have stalks of intermediate length. In addition, there are more free pinnae than in *A. trudellii*, and the pinnae are more distant than those of either parent.

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### The Correct Name of a Common Tropical American Oleandra

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One of the commonest and most widespread Oleandras of the American tropics was long known as *Oleandra nodosa* (Willd.) Presl. When Dr. William R. Maxon (1914, pp. 392-398) published a revision of the American species of *Oleandra*, he used the name *O. articulata* (Swartz) Presl<sup>1</sup> for the species previously known as *O. nodosa*. This was a most confusing change, for *O. articulata* had previously been applied to a common species of tropical Africa and the Mascarene Islands. The basis of this name was *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Maxon decided that because Swartz did not cite any specimen but only plate 136 of Plumier's "Tractus de Filicibus Americanis," he was in fact basing his new species solely on this illustration. This agrees with some of Maxon's other typifications of Swartz' species that Maxon thought were based on the cited illustrations of Plumier, Sloane, or others. But these typifications are incorrect, including the typification of *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz, which is based on a specimen from the Mascarene Islands. Thus the name *Oleandra articulata* should be restored for the African plant and not used for the American species.

In Schrader's Journal of Botany (1801) Swartz gave brief diagnoses of many new species without citing any specimens. In

<sup>1</sup> Tent. Pterid. 78. 1836.

<sup>2</sup> J. Bot. Schrad. 1800(2): 30. 1801.